

Appln No. 10/791,197
Amdt date February 28, 2007
Reply to Office action of November 30, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Rejection dated November 30, 2006, the examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Hirano, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,879,107) in view of Ahn (KR 20010463093). The examiner admits that neither Hirano nor Ahn teaches or suggests that the amount of Fe in the MgO protection layer ranges from 15 to 90 ppm, as recited in claim 1. However, in maintaining the rejection, the examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to choose an amount of Fe within the claimed range. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

A passivation layer comprising an amount of Fe ranging from 15 to 90 ppm, as recited in independent claim 1, exhibits unexpected and desirable results. As noted in the specification at page 3, lines 25-28, when the amount of Fe is outside this range, the discharge delay time is disadvantageously prolonged. In addition, as illustrated in Figure 3 and discussed at page 4, line 29 through page 5, line 28, the plasma display panels prepared according to Examples 1 through 3 having an amount of Fe within the claimed range showed improvements in the black noise phenomenon and shortened discharge delay times compared to the plasma display panels prepared according to Comparative Examples 1 and 2, in which the amount of Fe was outside the claimed range.

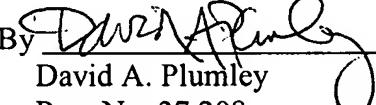
Moreover, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2, canceled claim 2 and amended claim 3 to depend from claim 1. Specifically, applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the passivation layer comprises Si in an amount ranging from 50 to 500 ppm. Hirano and Ahn also fail to teach or suggests this feature. A passivation layer comprising an amount of Si ranging from 50 to 500 ppm, as recited in amended independent claim 1, exhibits unexpected and desirable results. As noted in the specification at page 3, lines 21-25, when the amount of Si is outside this range, the discharge delay time is disadvantageously prolonged. In addition, as illustrated in Figures 4 and 5 and discussed at page 5, line 30 through page 6, line 24, the plasma display panels prepared according to Reference Examples 1 through 4 having an amount of Si within the claimed range showed shortened discharge delay times

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compared to the plasma display panels prepared according to Comparative Examples 3 and 4, in which the amount of Si was outside the claimed range. Given these unexpected results, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1 and 3-5 remain pending in this application and applicant submits that all of pending claims 1 and 3-5 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, applicant invites the examiner to contact applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 

David A. Plumley
Reg. No. 37,208
626/795-9900

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